

LEON BOSQUE RC&D COUNCIL

2008 Conservation Improvement Grants

The Leon Bosque RC&D Council, a 501©3 organization whose mission is to provide leadership and coordination for rural development initiatives, is pleased to announce that they are accepting proposals for community improvement grants. This grant will be available to local governments and organizations which qualify for tax exemption under section 501©3 of the Internal Revenue Code and are members or sponsors of the Leon Bosque RC&D Council.

Grant funds are not intended to provide the full cost of a project, but to be used as “seed money” to leverage funds and/or attract additional funds.

The purpose of the grants are to further the mission of the RC&D Council and to provide incentives for local organizations to pursue rural and community conservation initiatives.

Selected projects will be those that **develop human capacity related to conservation, enhance community conservation, improve the environment, foster partnerships, and enhance the ability of citizens to use technology.**

Project examples could be: community planning about conservation issues, conservation leadership development, education and training, development of community based conservation organizations, nature and/or heritage tourism enhancement.

Grant awards will be a **maximum** of \$2000. Eligible participants will include local entities of government and community based 501©3 organizations in Bosque, Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Hamilton, Hood, Palo Pinto, Mills, Shackelford, Somervell and Stephens counties.

Recipients must show in the projected budget that they have raised an amount equal to or greater than the amount of funds being requested **...in other words, a 50/50 match.** Match may be cash, in kind, or a combination of both. Using the funds to attract other partners is strongly encouraged.

Recipients will be asked to submit a progress report at the end of each quarter until the project is finished. Projects are to be finished a year from the date funds are awarded or April 1, 2009 whichever comes first.

Leon Bosque RC&D Council reserves the right to request that funds be returned to the Council if the receiving organization fails to provide progress reports in a timely manner or does not finish the project within the allotted time.

Proposals should include:

- Cover letter from the organization that will receive the funds. Cover letter is to be used to transmit the proposal and must be on the letterhead of the organization that will be receiving the funds.
- Copy of IRS Determination Letter (if other than unit of government) stating that the organization qualifies for tax exempt status of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Project description
- Project Application (attached)
- Statement of need
- Project budget and timeline. Budget should show all funds and/or in kind donations by line item. Budget should show who will be providing funds or in kind and its' value. A sample budget is attached.
- How the completed project will be evaluated

Proposals must be postmarked no later than **April 1, 2008**. After contracts are signed, funds will be awarded.

Mail to

: **Lee Standley, Coordinator**
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For additional information, contact the Leon Bosque Council office in GRANBURY at 817.573.1666 Ext. 109 or email to lee.standley@tx.usda.gov